

Orders conceived by the Lords of her Maiesties priuie Councell, and by her Highnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in execution for the restraint of killing and eating of flesh this next Lent, and to be executed aswell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbes of London, and by the Officers of the liberties and exempt places in and about the same, as by order to be prescribed by the Lordes Lieutenants of all the Counties of the Realme to the Iustices of peace, Lordes of liberties, and officers of corporate Townes.

In the xxxiii. yere of the Queenes Maiesties reigne.

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First her Maiesties pleasure is, vpon her vnderstanding of the great disorders heretofore and especially the last Lent committed in killing and eating flesh in the time of Lent, especially in the Citie of London, and the liberties thereto adioyning, that the statute made in the first yere of her Maiesties reigne for the restraint thereof, be put in due execution by the way of inquisition, and charge of Iuries, and by any other good meanes, both within the Citie and all other places requisite within the Realme.

And for the better knowledge of the trueth of these disorders, and redresse of the inconueniences, the saide Iuries shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, victuallers, Tauerneers, and keepers of ordinarie tables, and such other that vnder victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall othes, what flesh shall be, or is any during the Lent season dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses: which if they shall refuse to doe, then they shall commit to prison the saide seruants, so refusing vpon their othes to declare the trueth.

And because a great part of this disorder groweth by the Butchers of the Citie of London, and also of the Countrey, that secretly kill and bring flesh to the Citie: there shall be onely fixe Butchers licenced by the Lord Maior to kill flesh within the said Citie and liberties thereof, peelding for the reliefe of maymed Souldiours and Mariners such summes as shall be limited for that purpose by order of the priuie Councell.

And euery of these Butchers to be so licenced, shall be first bound in the summe of two hundred poundes to her Maiesties vse, and the bonds to be certified to the Queenes Remembrancer in the Exchequer to sell no flesh in the time of Lent, but to such persons as shall shew them speciall warrant from the Lord Maior, vnder his hand, and that the Butchers doe truly keepe particular booke of their dayly sales, and of the names of those to whome they shall so sell, with the quantities and the times thereof.

That the Lord Maior giue order to these Butchers, not to sell any flesh but at reasonable prices, and for that purpose the prices shall be set downe by the saide L. Maior, such as may be reasonable both for the buyer and seller: and if the Butcher shall breake that order, then to be forthwith discharged, and committed to prison, and another put into his place, and his bond to be certified into the Exchequer to the Queenes benefite.

That the Lord Maior himselfe shall graunt no warrant for buying of flesh in Lent, but to such as shall haue and shewe to him licence in good writing according to the lawes of the Realme to eat flesh, and the said licence to be viewed and registred, first by some two meete persons to be appointed for this purpose by the Lord Maior, and Bookes to be kept thereof, to be shewed further when the same shall be required, vntill it be to Ambassadors and Agents of forreine Princes, to whome notwithstanding no further quantitie shall be allowed, then ratably for their owne household, and that such Ambassadors and Agents shall giue to the Lord Maior a certificate weekly, what they shall require to be for their owne tables.

That the L. Maior shall nowe presently before Lent cause all Inholders, Tablekeepers, victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerneers within the Citie, and liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as he shall appoint meete for that purpose: and shall take bonds of euery of them in good summes of money not vnder one hundred pound a piece to her Maiesties vse, not to vtter any flesh in their houses this Lent time for any respect, except it be for some such person that lieth in their house, and that also hath licence through sicknesse, or other necessarie cause, to eat flesh. Bonds shall be taken also of the Poulterers, not to vtter any poultrie ware, but to such as shall be likewise licenced to eat flesh, and that such as will not giue such bonds, that they be secluded from all vtterance of victuall during the Lent season.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, the L. Maior shall cause certaine persons, whereof some to be named to the L. Maior by the Wardens of the fishmongers, to watch at the gates and other like places in the Suburbes, where flesh may be brought in, to view and search, and to intercept the same. And in case the same shall be found to be brought to any person not warranted nor licenced to eat it, as is aforesaid, then the same to be forfeited and solde at the discretion of the L. Maior, for the vse of the poore in the Hospitals and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned. And otherwise the Carriers of the saide victuals of flesh to be guided to the persons houses that haue licence, with regard therein not to be abused. And this watch to be continued daily during the whole time of Lent: and if any of these watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent.

And to the end the saide Orders may be duly executed, it is thought conuenient, that the L. Maior should send for the chiefe Heads of the company of the fishmongers, and shall cause them to make choise of foure or moze wise and discrete persons of the said company, and men of good wealth and habilitie, to whome they shall commit the charge to make enquirie after such as shall be found transgressors of the saide Orders: who in respect of their traueil bestowed in that behalfe, shall haue one moiety of such bonds as shall be forfeited by transgressing of the saide Orders, and the other moiety to bee conuerted vnto godly vses, by the discretion of the Queenes Maiesties High Almoner, specially vpon poore and lame souldiers, with the priuie of some of the priuie counsell.

And that there may be due execution of the saide Orders, aswell without as within the Liberties of the Citie, it is thought conuenient, that they that haue the chiefe charge ouer the places priuiledged and exempt, where any Leets or Law dayes are kept, shall authorize vnder their hand and seale foure persons as are aboue mentioned, to make search within the said priuiledged and exempt places for such as shall transgresse the saide Orders, and shall for their traueil therein employed, receiue the moiety of the Bonds forfeited, as is aboue mentioned. And for the auoyding of corruption and partiality in the said persons, it shall be necessarie to take their othes, and giue bond in some good and large summes, to see (as much as in them lieth,) a due obseruation of the saide Orders.

And for that it is to be doubted, that the saide fishmongers, vpon the obseruation of the saide Orders, will take occasion thereby to inhaunce the prises, aswell of fresh as of Sea fish: It is thought meet, that the Lord Maior shall take order with the saide fishmongers, that aswell the Salt as fresh fish shall be vttered at reasonable prises.

And it is ordered, that no Butcher shall kill any Beeves, but such as shall be specially licenced thereunto, without any fraud, for the furnishing of such shippes as shall be lawfully employed by Sea, either in the way of traffique, or otherwise. And that such Butchers, as shall be licenced within the Liberties to kill any flesh, shall euery foureteene dayes at the least, giue a true certificate vnto the Lord Maior and head officers of the places exempt, of such numbers of reeles, Lambes, and Muttons, as shall be by them weekly killed: to the end, there may be a true certificate made euery fiftene dayes vnto the Lords and others of her Maiesties priuie counsell, what numbers of the seuerall kindes aboue mentioned shall be killed, either within the City, or places exempt.

Lastly, where any Butchers shall be licenced in any exempt place without the Citie of London & the Liberties thereof, before the saide Butchers shall be suffered to kill or sell any flesh, they shall make payment to the hands of the officers that shall giue them licence, for the reliefe of maimed Souldiers, Mariners, and other lame and impotent persons as shall be limited by letters, either of the priuie counsell, or of the Lieutenants of the Shires.

And as these Orders are expressly deuised to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same, so her Maiesties pleasure and commandement is, that the execution of these or like Orders be performed by the commandement of her Maiesties Lieutenants to be sent to the Iustices of the peace, in all Shires within their rule, and to all other officers in Townes corporate, in any Liberties, with like order for bonds to be taken to her Maiesties vse: the benefite of the forfeiture of which bonds, her Maiestie may at the intercession of the saide Lieutenants cause to be distributed amongst lame and poore souldiers.